



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COPS IN SCHOOLS

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AWARDS GRANTS TO HIRE POLICE OFFICERS IN MISSOURI SCHOOLS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that two Missouri communities will receive grants from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services to fund the hiring of police officers assigned as School Resource Officers.

"Two communities in the Western District of Missouri will receive a total of more than \$350,000, which will be used over the course of three years to increase the presence of law enforcement in our public schools," Graves said. "In all, the grants will fund five law enforcement positions in Missouri."

Two Missouri communities were awarded COPS In Schools grants from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, which fund the hiring of police officers who are assigned to a school as their community policing beat.

The City of Odessa, Mo., received a \$124,845 grant, which will fund one full-time position and the Webster County, Mo., Sheriff's Department received \$249,492, which will fund three full-time positions and one part-time position.

The COPS In Schools program awarded a total of \$20.7 million in grants to communities nationwide to add 194 officers to the country's schools. The grants are being awarded to 111 law enforcement agencies in 42 states and Puerto Rico.

The grants provide a maximum of \$125,000 toward the salary and benefits of each new School Resource Officer (SRO) over three years. COPS also delivers training on school safety issues for each new SRO and an administrator from the school to which the officer is assigned. The training includes topics ranging from developing emergency response plans and conducting

safety assessments of schools, to child development and cultural fluency.

While the specific duties of an SRO are determined locally based on the needs of the community, an SROs presence on campus deters crime and violence, and provides an immediate response to occurrences that cannot be prevented. Many SROs also participate in classroom instruction on state and local laws, substance abuse, and driver education, or become involved in extracurricular activities that enable them to serve as a role model for students who might not otherwise have positive interactions with law enforcement.

Including today's grants, the COPS In Schools program has provided over \$700 million to hire and train 6,300 school resource officers. For additional information, visit www.cops.usdoj.gov.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow